

and intent of this order in increasing opportunities for 8(a)s, SDBs, and MBEs in Federal procurement. Such study shall be presented to the President within 90 days of the date of this order.

Sec. 9. Applicability. Independent agencies are requested to comply with the provisions of this order.

Sec. 10. Administration, Enforcement, and Judicial Review.

(a) This order shall be carried out to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the Administration's priorities and appropriations.

(b) This order is not intended and should not be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 6, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 11, 2000]

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Proclamation 7358—Leif Erikson Day, 2000

October 6, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

This year, as we mark the beginning of a new millennium, we also celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Europe's first contact with North America. At the turn of the last millennium, the legendary explorer Leif Erikson—son of Iceland, grandson of Norway—sailed across the cold waters of the Atlantic from his home in Greenland to the eastern coast of North America, completing the first documented voyage of Europeans to the New World.

In the ensuing centuries, millions of other men and women followed the lead of these brave Vikings—some seeking riches, some

seeking adventure, all in search of a new and better life. Families from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway would make their new homes in communities like New Sweden, Delaware; Oslo, Minnesota; and Denmark, Iowa, bringing with them a reverence for freedom and a deep love of democracy that stemmed from their own egalitarian traditions. More than 10 million Americans today can trace their roots to the Nordic countries, and their family ties, traditions, and values have strengthened the warm friendship our Nation has always enjoyed with the people of Scandinavia.

In celebration of this friendship and our shared pride in Leif Erikson's exploits, Americans have joined with the Nordic countries to commemorate this special anniversary. The Smithsonian Institution sponsored a traveling exhibit earlier this year to highlight the Viking explorations of North America; the Library of Congress hosted an international symposium on the ancient texts of the Icelandic Sagas, many of which were displayed in the United States for the first time; and we joined Iceland in creating our first jointly issued coin to commemorate Leif Erikson's historic voyage.

These cultural initiatives reflect the strong ties and long history between the United States and the Nordic countries, and we continue to cooperate on many mutual goals. The Nordic countries are our full partners in the Northern Europe Initiative (NEI), which we launched in 1997 to build on the dramatic progress toward a free Europe that occurred following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Through the NEI, we are working together to promote democracy, stability, and prosperity in the Baltic nations and northwest Russia, to facilitate their fuller integration into Western institutions, and to cooperate on such cross-border issues as energy, health, law enforcement, and the environment. In addition, many of the best and brightest entrepreneurs in America and the Nordic countries are collaborating to encourage trade and the spread of innovative ideas and technologies around the world. Americans and Nordics alike value courage, independence, energy, and resourcefulness; working together in this new millennium, we are charting a new course for our people just

as exciting and full of promise as the one Leif Erikson traveled a thousand years ago.

In honor of Leif Erikson and of our Nordic American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 9, 2000, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

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Remarks at an AFL-CIO Reception

October 6, 2000

Thank you. Well, first of all, madam, I want to thank you for letting all these fairly scruffy characters come in your home. [Laughter] Many of us are well-accompanied, though. [Laughter]

You know, I was thinking. We had Morty and Linda and John and I up here talking. This is an introduction that looks like America. We span these vast ethnic gaps. We had an Irish-Catholic and Irish-Protestant at the end. [Laughter] Thank you, Morty, and thank you for having us here, and thank you for being such good friends to me.

You know, I really believe in this issue. John and I worked very hard together to beat that initiative in California a couple of years ago. And we raised money, and you all spent it very well—[laughter]—and intelligently. I mean that, intelligently. And you won, and I think you'll win again.

But I just wanted to say a couple of things about the environment in which this debate will take place. One is I will never be able to thank you enough for the support that you've given to me and the Vice President, Hillary, our whole crowd these last 8 years. It's been a joy.

One of my objectives when I became President was to take away the ability of our friends in the other party to demonize us just for being what we are, for being the progressive party. And I was determined I would take away the budget issue; I would take away the crime issue; I would take away the welfare issue; I would take away the foreign policy issue; and I would do it in a responsible, progressive way, but that we would not be vulnerable on these things anymore.

And I was determined that, if we could turn this economy around, the Republicans would never be able to make a lot of hay with their sort of knee-jerk, anti-union propaganda. And I think it's pretty well happened. There are no votes in America for running against people because they organize themselves into labor groups to protect the interests of their members and their families and working people at large. There is just not any votes in that anymore. Anybody that responds to that kind of stuff anymore, they weren't ever going to be for us anyway.

I hope that I have helped you not only on the specific things we fought for and the specific things we stopped from happening but in changing the climate in America so that America's labor leaders and rank-and-file men and women in the unions can not only feel proud of the organizations they're a part of but feel that they're not going to be looked at in some prejudiced and unfair way by their fellow citizens. And I think we're just about there.

I also have to say I think your own leadership deserves a lot of credit for that. I think you deserve a lot of credit for that, John. I think all of you have been so smart in the way you've taken the issues that you care about to the American people.

I think that if you look at how the parallel initiative was defeated in California 2 years ago, basically what you made sure of was that everybody knew what it really did, not what they said it did, and understood what the